

# Policy and Procedure: Local Governing Committee Terms of Reference

**Date:** 17.9.25

**Date of Board Approval:** 17.9.25

**Review date:** Annual (Autumn term)

## 1 The Role of the Local Governing Committee

- 1.1 The Local Governing Committee is a committee of the main board of the Trust. Each Academy has its own Local Governing Committee or joint Local Governing Committee. Each Local Governing Committee is established by the Board in accordance with the Trust's Articles and will be subject to Terms of Reference set out below which will detail the responsibilities of the Local Governing Committee and its relationship with the main board.

## 2 The Trust and Local Governing Committee

- 2.1 The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It has entered into a Master Funding Agreement with the Department for Education and a Supplemental Funding Agreement in respect of the Academies (together the "Funding Agreements") and so it is the Trust that is ultimately responsible to the Department for Education pursuant to the Funding Agreements.
- 2.2 The Trustees are the charity trustees (within the terms of section 177 of the Charities Act 2011) and are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the Trust in accordance with the provisions set out in the Articles.
- 2.3 The Local Governing Committee is a committee of the Trustees established pursuant to Article 100. The Local Governing Committee will act in accordance with these Terms of Reference and the Scheme of Delegation for the Academies unless otherwise directed by the Trustees. It will be accountable to the Trustees for its decisions.
- 2.4 In accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines on conflict of interest. Not more than one member of a family is permitted to be a Trustee or Governor. If any doubt arises about family member status, Trustees will make the final decision.

## 3 Local Governing Committee - Appointment and Structure

- 3.1 Membership of the Local Governing Committee shall comprise not less than 8 and not more than 13 Local Governors as follows:
- (a) At least 4 Local Governors appointed by the Trustees
  - (b) The Headteacher
  - (c) 2 elected Parent Local Governors
  - (d) One other elected Staff Local Governor ratified by the Trustees
  - (e) Up to four Local Governors recommended by the Local Governors (appointments to be ratified by the Trustees)
- With regard to the appointment of governors by the Trust Board, the

Trustees shall seek to ensure that the views of the Local Governing Committee are taken into account.

- 3.2 The length of a Local Governor's term of office shall be four years, except for Local Governors who transferred immediately from the predecessor school's Governing Body, who shall serve a term equivalent to the remainder of their term in that prior Governor role at the date of commencement of the Academy.
- 3.3 No person shall be qualified to be a Local Governor unless he is aged 18 or over at the date of his election or appointment. No current pupil of any of the Academies shall be a Local Governor.
- 3.4 A Local Governor shall cease to hold office if he becomes incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering his own affairs.
- 3.5 A Local Governor shall cease to hold office if he is absent without the permission of the Local Governors from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the other Local Governors resolve that his office be vacated.
- 3.6 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Local Governor if:
  - 3.6.1 he has been declared bankrupt and/or his estate has been seized from his possession for the benefit of his creditors and the declaration or seizure has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or
  - 3.6.2 he is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order.
- 3.7 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Local Governor at any time when he is subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order).
- 3.8 A Local Governor shall cease to hold office if:
  - 3.8.1 he would, by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006 or section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision), be disqualified from acting as a trustee; or
  - 3.8.2 he is otherwise found to be unsuitable by the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Funding Agreements.
- 3.9 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Local Governor if he has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he was responsible or to which he was privy, or which he by his conduct contributed to or facilitated.
- 3.10 A person shall be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a Local Governor where he has, at any time, been convicted of any criminal offence, excluding any that have been spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 as amended, and excluding any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence except where a person has been convicted of any offence which falls under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 3.11 After the Academies have opened, a person shall be disqualified from holding or

continuing to hold office as a Local Governor if he has not provided to the Chair of the Trustees, by the date of the Local Governor's appointment or as soon as practicable thereafter, a disclosure and barring service certificate (previously known as a criminal records certificate) at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997. In the event that the certificate discloses any information which would in the opinion of either the Chair of the Trustees or the Chief Executive Officer confirm their unsuitability to work with children that person shall be disqualified. If a dispute arises as to whether a person shall be disqualified, a referral shall be made to the Secretary of State to determine the matter. The determination of the Secretary of State shall be final.

- 3.12 Where, by virtue of these Terms of Reference a person becomes disqualified from holding, or continuing to hold office as a Local Governor; and he is, or is proposed, to become such a Local Governor, he shall upon becoming so disqualified give written notice of that fact to the Governance Professional.
- 3.13 A Local Governor's term of office shall be terminated if:
- 3.13.1 he resigns by serving written notice to the Governance Professional;
  - 3.13.2 the Trustees terminate his appointment;
  - 3.13.3 he is removed by the persons appointing him;
  - 3.13.4 in the case of a Staff Member, his employment is terminated;
- 3.14 The Local Governing Committee may continue to act notwithstanding a temporary vacancy in its composition.

## **4 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of Local Governing Committee**

- 4.1 The Chair of the Local Governing Committee shall be appointed by the Trustees having sought views of the Local Governors (with the exception of the appointment of the first Chair).
- 4.2 The term of office of the Chair of the Local Governing Committee shall be 1 year.
- 4.3 No employee of the Trust is eligible to be Chair or Vice Chair of the Local Governing Committee
- 4.4 The Vice-Chair of the Local Governing Committee shall be appointed by the Local Governors from amongst their number, for a term of 1 year. Subject to remaining eligible to be a Vice-Chair, a Local Governor may be re-appointed for further terms of office as Vice-Chair by the Local Governors.
- 4.5 If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from any meeting of the Local Governing Committee, those Local Governors present shall appoint one of their number to chair the meeting.

## **5 Responsibilities of Local Governors**

### **5.1 Compliance and Governance**

5.1.1 The Local Governors shall:

- (a) ensure that standards of attainment and progress by the students of the Academy are high in accordance with standards set by the Trustees
- (b) constructively support and challenge the HEADTEACHER and the staff;

- (c) monitor and evaluate the work of the Academy systematically and regularly in relation to:
  - (i) pupil outcomes;
  - (ii) teaching, learning and assessment;
  - (iii) effectiveness of leadership and management; and
- (d) carry forward the Trust's vision, in a way appropriate to the specific qualities and community characteristics of the Academy;
- (e) implement actions required to comply with statutory regulations and the Funding Agreements; and
- (f) implement the policies agreed by the Trustees.

5.1.2 The Chair of the LGC can use their judgement between meetings to make decisions on behalf of the whole LGC in appropriate circumstances in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and RoFR, such decisions will be provisional, when necessary, pending ratification by the whole LGC.

## 5.2 Appointments and Training

5.2.1 The Local Governors shall:

- (a) comply with the Trust's HR policies, including the process for performance reviews for members of staff;
- (b) advise the Chief Executive Officer and/or HEADTEACHER in the event that they consider that changes are required to staff terms and conditions (to be clear, Local Governors may not make any amendments to terms and conditions without the Trustees' consent).

## 5.3 Finances

5.3.1 The Local Governors shall:

- (a) assist the Trustees in complying with the provisions of the Funding Agreements where requested from time to time;

## 5.4 Generally

5.4.1 Each Local Governor shall act in the best interests of the Academy at all times.

5.4.2 No Local Governor shall act or omit to act in a way which would be prejudicial to the interests of the Academy or the Trust at any time, including any actions or omissions which might create bad publicity for the Academy or the Trust.

5.4.3 The Local Governors and Associate Members must keep confidential all information obtained by them relating to the Academy and the Trust.

5.4.4 When a Local Governor becomes a Local Governor of an Academy within the Trust (following his or her appointment or his or her transfer from a maintained school), he shall be required to complete and sign a registration form (with details required for the Trust) in which the Local Governor/ Associate Member agrees to comply with: -

- the Articles;
- the Funding Agreements;
- these Terms of Reference;
- and any terms of reference of sub-committees which may apply to that Local Governor/Associate Member.

- 5.4.5 Each Local Governor shall be required to attend training as referenced in paragraph 5.2.1(d).
- 5.4.6 Each Local Governor shall also be required to take part in regular self-reviews and is accountable for meeting his or her own training and development needs. It is a Local Governor's responsibility to consider if, and raise any concerns where, he feels that appropriate training and development is not being provided.

## **6 Chief Executive Officer**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive Officer has been appointed by the Trustees to oversee and coordinate all Trust activities and to undertake the role of Accounting Officer. Trustees delegate to the Chief Executive Officer such functions and powers as are required in relation to securing the effective internal organisation, management and control of the Trust and its Academies, including the implementation, management and monitoring of all policies approved by the Trustees for the effective operation of the Academies.

## **7 Responsibilities of the Headteacher**

- 7.1 The Headteacher shall be responsible to the Local Governing Committee /the Trustees for the leadership and management of the Academy, including, in particular for: -
- 7.1.1 implementing the agreed policies and procedures laid down by the Local Governing Committee/ the Trustees in line with section 7 of the Scheme of Delegation;
  - 7.1.2 advising the Local Governing Committee/the Trustees on strategic direction, forward planning and quality assurance in line with section 2 of the Scheme of Delegation;
  - 7.1.3 advising the Local Governing Committee/the Trustees and/or the Admissions Committee (Chair) on the admission of pupils in line with section 7 of the Scheme of Delegation;
  - 7.1.4 managing the delegated budget and resources agreed by the Trustees in line with sections 4,5 and 6 of the Scheme of Delegation;
  - 7.1.5 advising the Local Governing Committee/the Trustees on the appointment of the Deputy Headteacher and such other senior posts as the Local Governing Committee/the Trustees may determine in line with section 4 of the Scheme of Delegation;
  - 7.1.6 the appointment of all other staff and (except to the extent directed otherwise by the Trustees and/or the Local Governing Committee), the salary grading, allocation of duties, appraisal and discipline of all staff in accordance with the Trust's human resources policies and procedures and best practice for HR and recruitment and in line with section 4 of the Scheme of Delegation;
  - 7.1.7 the maintenance of good order and discipline by the pupils including their suspension and/or exclusion within the framework laid down by the Local Governing Committee; and

7.1.8 all such additional functions as may be assigned under the headteacher's job description or contract of employment.

## **8 Role of the Chair**

8.1 The Chair shall:

8.1.1 meet regularly with the headteacher;

8.1.2 preside over efficient Local Governing Committee meetings

8.1.3 be accountable to the Trustees for the operation of the Academy and shall meet with the Chief Executive Officer and the Trustees at such times as may be reasonably required.

## **9 Conflicts of Interest**

9.1 The income and property of the Academy must be applied solely towards the provision of the Objects as detailed in the Articles. The restrictions and procedures which apply to the Trustees in the Articles with regard to having a Personal Financial Interest shall also apply to the Local Governors. Additionally, a Trustee, Local Governor or Associate Member must declare any interests in relation to an educational setting (s).

9.2 Any Local Governor/Associate Member who has any duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest) which conflicts or may conflict with his duties as a Local Governor shall disclose that fact to the Local Governors as soon as he becomes aware of it. A Local Governor must absent themselves from any discussions of the Local Governors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his duty to act solely in the interests of the Academy and any duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any Personal Financial Interest).

## **10 Meetings of Local Governing Committee**

10.1 The Local Governing Committee shall meet once in every term, and shall hold such other meetings as may be necessary. A quorum must be present, being three or one third of the Local Governors (if greater).

10.2 All meetings shall be convened by the Governance Professional, who shall send to the Local Governors and to the Chief Executive Officer written notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda at least seven clear days in advance of the meeting.

10.3 A special meeting of the Local Governing Committee shall be called by the Governance Professional whenever requested by the Chair or at the request in writing of any three Local Governors or of the Chief Executive Officer. Where there are matters demanding urgent consideration, the Chair or, in his absence, the Vice-Chair may waive the need for seven clear days' notice of the meeting and substitute such notice as he thinks fit.

10.4 The convening of a meeting and the proceedings conducted shall not be invalidated by reason of any individual not having received written notice of the meeting or a copy of the agenda.

10.5 If the number of Local Governors assembled for a meeting of the Local Governing Committee does not constitute a quorum, the meeting shall not be held. If in the course of a meeting of the Local Governing Committee the number of Local Governors present ceases to constitute a quorum, the meeting shall be terminated

forthwith.

- 10.6 If for lack of a quorum a meeting cannot be held or, as the case may be, cannot continue, the Chair shall, if he thinks fit, determine the time and date at which a further meeting shall be held and shall direct the Governance Professional to convene the meeting accordingly.
- 10.7 Every question to be decided at a meeting of the Local Governing Committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Local Governors present and voting on the question. Every Local Governor shall have one vote. Where there is an equal division of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 10.8 A Local Governor may not vote by proxy.
- 10.9 No resolution of the Local Governing Committee may be rescinded or varied at a subsequent meeting unless consideration of the rescission or variation is a specific item of business on the agenda for that meeting.
- 10.10 Any Local Governor who is also an employee of the Trust shall withdraw from that part of any meeting of the Local Governing Committee at which his remuneration, conditions of service, promotion, conduct, suspension, dismissal or retirement are to be considered.
- 10.11 Any Local Governor shall be able to participate in meetings of the Local Governors by telephone or video conference provided that he has given reasonable notice to the Governance Professional and that the Local Governors have access to the appropriate equipment.
- 10.12 Minutes must be prepared of all Local Governing Committee meetings and meetings of all sub-committees. Drafts of those minutes must be sent to all attendees and to the Chief Executive Officer no later than 14 days after the date of the meeting. Final minutes, as approved by the Local Governors, must be sent to the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of Trustees within 7 days of approval.

## **11 Delegation of Functions and Committees**

- 11.1 The Local Governing Committee shall establish "Committees" and the powers of any such Committees, terms of reference and membership shall be determined by the Local Governing Committee in accordance with any guidance or policies of the Trust. Working parties, with clearly defined purpose, may also be set up as appropriate in accordance with any guidance or policies of the Trust.
- 11.2 The Committees may include members who are not Local Governors, these members are called Associate Members. They will not be eligible to vote and will need approval by the Trust Board in the first instance before supporting the Local Governing Committee.
- 11.3 Associate Members will be required to complete a DBS check and safeguarding training as well as agreeing to the Trust Code of Conduct as a pre-requisite to joining a Local Governing Committee.
- 11.4 Except where it is otherwise constrained within its terms of reference, a Committee of the LGC may invite attendance by persons who are neither Local Governors nor committee members where such attendance is considered by the members of the Committee to benefit its deliberations, prior permission for such attendance should be agreed with the HEADTEACHER in the first instance who will refer to the CEO if

appropriate. Copies of the minutes of Committee meetings are to be circulated to all Local Governors.

11.5 The minimum quorum for the meetings of Committees shall be three Local Governors.

## **12 Rules and Byelaws**

12.1 The Local Governing Committee shall have power to make rules and bye-laws in respect of the government and conduct of the Academy as it shall think fit. Such rules and bye-laws shall be subject to the provisions of this document and to consultation with the HEADTEACHER and approval by the Trustees.

## **13 Amendment of Terms of Reference**

13.1 These terms of reference are drafted and maintained by the Trust. The Trustees may make amendments to these terms of reference from time to time. In the event that amendments are made, the Trust shall notify the Chair of each Local Governing Committee, who shall be expected to make the other Local Governors aware of such changes.

13.2 This document shall be subject to review at the first meeting of the Trustees in each academic year

## **14 Effective Date**

14.1 These Terms of Reference shall come into effect, in relation to a Local Governing Committee, on the establishment of the Local Governing Committee.

## **15 Interpretation**

15.1 In this document: -

“Academy”	means the Academy which is one of the academies of the Trust;
“Articles”	means the Articles of Association of the Trust;
“Associate Member”	means a person appointed by the Trust to fulfil the role of the Associate Member. This person does not have voting rights, but will be invited to support the Local Academy with specific expertise/skill sets
“Chief Executive Officer” employee to	means the person appointed by the Trustees as an oversee and co-ordinate all Trust activities;
“Governance Professional” Professional	means the person appointed to act as Governance to the Local Governing Committee;
“Funding Agreements”	has the meaning given to it in paragraph 2.1;
“Headteacher”	means the member of staff at the Academy who is appointed by the Trust (in accordance with the terms of this document and his or her contract of employment, as may be amended from time to time)

to have overall day to day control of and responsibility for the leadership and management of the Academy;

“Local Governor”	means a member of the Local Governing Committee;
“Local Governing Committee”	means the Local Governing Committee for the Academy, being a committee of the main Trust Board, constituted as provided by paragraph 3 of this document;
“Parent Local Governor” accordance with	means a Local Governor elected or appointed in  Articles 54 - 56;
“Personal Financial Interest” of, or the	means any interest in the employment or remuneration  provision of any other benefit to, a Local Governor as further detailed within Article 6 of the Articles;
“Scheme of Delegation”	means the scheme of delegation established by the Trust in respect of the Academy (as amended from time to time by the Trustees), setting out the level of decision-making permitted for the overall governance and management of the Trust and the Academy;
“Secretary”	means the Secretary of the Trust or any other person appointed to perform the duties of Secretary to the Trust;
“Staff Member”	means a member elected to the Local Governing Committee by members of staff of the Academy;
“this document”	means these Terms of Reference;
“the Trust”	means OMAT
“the Trustees”	means those persons appointed as directors (under company law) and trustees (under charity law) of the Trust.

16 Unless the context requires otherwise, a reference to: -

16.1 a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph so numbered in this document (or the sub-paragraph), and

16.2 words importing one gender shall include any other gender, the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa and the headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of this document.

<b>Date approved:</b>	17.9.25	<b>Chair of Trustees: Mayleen Atima</b>
<b>Date of next review:</b>	Autumn 26	<b>Signed:</b>
		<b>Print name: Mayleen Atima</b>